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TOKELAU

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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TOKELAU 1/

I. GENERAL

1. Tokelau, a Non-Self-Governing Territory administered by New Zealand, consists of three small atolls in the South Pacific (Nukunonu, 4.7 square kilometres; Fakaofo, 4.0 square kilometres; and Atafu, 3.5 square kilometres) with a total land area of approximately 12.2 square kilometres. Nukunonu, the central atoll, is 92 kilometres from Atafu and 64 kilometres from Fakaofo. Samoa, 480 kilometres to the south, is the nearest sizeable neighbour.

2. According to the 1986 census, the total population of Tokelau was 1,690, representing an increase of 118 as compared to 1981. There were 603 inhabitants on Atafu, 426 on Nukunonu and 661 on Fakaofo. The constraints of atoll life and population pressure have led some 3,000 Tokelauans to settle abroad, particularly in New Zealand and Samoa. The next census will be taken in 1991.

II. CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

A. General

3. Tokelau is administered under the Tokelau Act, 1948, and its amendments. 2/ Tokelauans are New Zealand citizens under the provisions of the New Zealand Citizenship Act, 1977.

4. Under the Tokelau Act, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of New Zealand appoints the Administrator of Tokelau for a three-year term. Mr. G. Ansell, the current Administrator, began his three-year term in July 1990. The Administrator resides at Wellington and visits Tokelau annually. His responsibilities for the day-to-day administration of the Territory are in practice delegated to the Official Secretary, who heads the Office for Tokelau Affairs. By agreement with the Government of Western Samoa that office is based at Apia.

5. The Government of Western Samoa gives considerable assistance to Tokelauans, including access to secondary and vocational institutions and medical facilities.

B. Legislative developments

6. Tokelau's legislative and judicial systems are based on the Tokelau Act, 1948, as amended. New Zealand statutes apply to Tokelau only where explicit reference is made to the Territory and, in practice, no New Zealand legislation is extended to Tokelau without Tokelauan consent. The Governor-General of New Zealand is empowered to make such regulations as he

deems necessary for the peace, order and good government of the Territory, and he does so after due process of consultation.

7. In the early 1980s, following a study showing that Tokelau lacked a coherent legal system and that major reform was needed, a Tokelau Law Project was undertaken, funded by the Tokelau budget and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The aim of the project is to create a coherent body of law that will give due recognition to Tokelauan custom and grant legal authority to local institutions. The process involves ascertaining Tokelau's wishes through extensive consultations with Tokelauan representatives, who have formed a special committee for the purpose.

8. The first amendment to Tokelau legislation resulting from the Law Project was enacted by the New Zealand Parliament in 1986. The Tokelau Amendment Act, 1986, 3/ transfers jurisdiction for administering the law of Tokelau from the High Court of Niue to the High Court of New Zealand. The Act also provides for the High Court of New Zealand to exercise its jurisdiction in either New Zealand, Tokelau or "such other appropriate place as the Chief Justice may direct"; establishes the New Zealand Court of Appeal as the final Court of Appeal for Tokelau, thereby replacing the Privy Council of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and extends the civil jurisdiction of the Tokelauan Commissioners on each atoll in line with the wishes of the General Fono (Council, see para. 10) and in conformity with traditional practice. Other provisions of the Act empower the Governor-General to delegate some of his revenue-gathering powers with respect to Tokelau and to affirm that freehold land may only be alienated to Tokelauans or to the Crown.

9. In recent times, substantial new legislation was completed, including an amendment granting legal recognition to all Tokelauan villages and enabling them to enact their own laws covering village affairs.

C. Territorial and local government

10. The principal institution in Tokelau is the General Fono, which establishes policies for the administration of the Territory, takes decisions on the allocation of budgetary resources and makes policy decisions in all areas affecting Tokelauan life. No major policy question is approved by the Administrator or the Minister for Foreign Affairs without the endorsement of the Fono.

11. The General Fono met twice during the period under review. Steady progress continues to be made in giving the people of Tokelau a greater voice in the Territory's development priorities and budgetary issues. The General Fono consists of 15 representatives of each atoll chosen by its respective taupulega (Council of Elders). These generally comprise the head of each family group and include representatives of the women's committee and the aumaga (village workforce), as well as the elders themselves. The three taupulega are presided over by the faipule, who are the three joint chairmen of the General Fono.

12. A number of specialized subcommittees and working groups of the General Fono have been established. During the period under review, the Budget Committee considered expenditure and project proposals and presented a balanced budget for adoption by the General Fono. The Law Committee did not meet on account of cyclone "Ofa", which hit the territory, but progress with its law reform project continued. Other committees, such as those for handicrafts, agriculture, accident compensation and health, continue to consider new policies and forward recommendations to the General Fono.

13. The Government of New Zealand is committed to assisting Tokelau in attaining a greater degree of self-government and economic self-sufficiency. While no timetable has been set for this, the New Zealand Government has regularly reminded the representatives of Tokelau of the desirability of continued progress towards self-government. It is the administering Power's stated intention, however, to be guided by the wishes of the Tokelauan people. Three United Nations visiting missions have so far been dispatched to Tokelau, the first one in 1976 (see A/AC.109/L.1135 and Add.1 and 2), the second in 1981 (see A/AC.109/680) and the third in 1986 (see A/AC.109/877 and Add.1). All three missions noted that the people of Tokelau were generally happy with their existing relationship with New Zealand and sought no constitutional changes. Addressing the Subcommittee on Small Territories of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, in April 1990, a representative of the Faipule reiterated Tokelau's wish to maintain its present status, while continuing its efforts to promote further political development.

14. Officials of the Office for Tokelau Affairs and representatives of the New Zealand Government attend meetings of the General Fono in an advisory capacity.

15. On each of the three atolls, the principal organ of administration is the taupulega. Village activities come under the control of the pulenuku, village mayors, who are part of the taupulega. They are also responsible for the day-to-day administration of village affairs, the scheduling of work, water supplies and, in some instances, resolving land disputes. The faipule and pulenuku are elected by secret ballot and universal suffrage for a term of three years. The next elections will be held in January 1993.

16. The faipule represents the community of his atoll in its dealings with the Administrator, the Official Secretary and the officers of the Tokelau Public Service. He presides at meetings of the taupulega and usually acts as a commissioner of the Court. The three faipule also represent Tokelau at regional meetings and conferences from time to time.

17. In recent years, the three faipule and three pulenuku have paid several visits to New Zealand for discussions with the Prime Minister and other officials on the political future of the Territory and to broaden their awareness of the general operation of the Government.

18. The General Fono agreed to continue its ongoing discussions with New Zealand on its future relationship with Tokelau. Delegates at the October 1988 meeting of the General Fono agreed on the proposal for Tokelau to have its own flag and anthem.

D. Public service

19. The Tokelau Public Service is the main adviser to the General Fono and implements Fono decisions. It is headed by the Official Secretary.

20. The Tokelau Public Service is almost exclusively staffed by Tokelauans. A doctor from Tuvalu, three United Nations volunteers, a further three personnel from New Zealand's Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA), one New Zealand adviser and some Samoan members of the office at Apia constitute the non-Tokelauan staff.

21. As at 30 June 1990, Public Service staff totalled 378, comprising 168 employees in established positions, 31 temporary employees, 7 expatriates and 172 casual staff, compared with a total staff of 376 in June 1989 (169 employees in established positions, 31 temporary employees, 4 expatriates and 172 casual staff). Casual employees are employed on a rotational basis. Employment in the Tokelau Public Service is the main source of regular income in the Territory.

22. The State Services Commission, acting under the Tokelau Amendment Act, 1967, reviewed public service salaries and approved a cost-of-living adjustment of 5 per cent, effective 1 December 1988. The New Zealand State Services Commission normally carries out an annual inspection of the Tokelau Public Service; the next inspection will take place later in 1991.

23. All directors of the Tokelau Public Service and the Official Secretary based at Apia paid regular visits to Tokelau by ship during the year. Inadequate transport service, however, hampers the administration of the Territory from Apia and has limited the number of public servants able to attend courses overseas. Efforts are being made to improve shipping services to Tokelau.

24. Training awards were granted to members of the Tokelau Public Service by UNDP, the University of the South Pacific, the South Pacific Commission (SPC), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation.

E. Future status of the Territory

25. The people of Tokelau have repeatedly expressed the desire to retain their special relationship with New Zealand.

26. In a statement made on 26 April 1990 to the Subcommittee on Small Territories, 4/ the representative of New Zealand said that, for her Government, the experience of decolonization in the South Pacific had been one of differing political outcomes. Not all Territories had chosen the path of full independence; New Zealand had acknowledged and respected such decisions as the wish of the people concerned, and the United Nations had subsequently accepted them. New Zealand had continually supported United Nations principles on decolonization since the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples had been adopted 30 years previously. There was no reluctance on the Government's part to relinquish "colonial" possessions. If there was any reluctance, it was in proceeding too quickly, ahead of the wishes of the people of Tokelau, wishes which New Zealand regarded as paramount, or in imposing some kind of arbitrary solution that met international norms of decolonization but prejudged the aspirations of the people concerned.

F. External relations

27. In November 1990, it was reported that certain Tokelaun leaders had complained that the New Zealand Government had pressured Tokelauans into signing a treaty in 1980 that had relinquished to the United States of America claims to Swains Island as part of the process of establishing a 200-mile exclusive economic zone for Tokelau. Some Tokelauns were reported as wanting the issue reopened, asserting that the full implications of the renunciation had not been fully understood at the time. 5/

28. The New Zealand Minister for External Relations and Trade, who was interviewed subsequently, noted that the assent by Tokelau to lift claims to Swains Island in return for agreement on boundaries of economic fishing zones had been discussed over a lengthy period and agreed to by a majority of Tokelauans at the time. 6/

29. The surrender of claims to Swains Island was noted by the United Nations Visiting Mission in 1981 (see A/AC.109/680), but had not been raised with the Visiting Mission of 1986. Nor has it been discussed in recent meetings of the Fono.

III. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

A. General

30. The economy of Tokelau is basically at a subsistence level. Its further development is limited by its size, isolation and lack of resources. Apart from the salaries of public service employees (see para. 21), the main sources of income are copra, stamps, souvenir coins and handicrafts, as well as remittances from Tokelauans resident abroad. Very little copra was exported during the year.

31. In February 1990, 7/ the Prime Minister of New Zealand announced that Tokelau had been severely hit by Cyclone Ofa, and that a Royal New Zealand Air Force reconnaissance flight over the Territory had revealed that 45 per cent of the homes had been destroyed. The storm had caused serious damage to sea walls around the low-lying atolls of Tokelau. The Prime Minister added that an air drop of food had been made to the islands and that a Royal New Zealand Navy supply ship had been sent to the Territory. Additional assistance provided to Tokelau in respect of Cyclone Ofa is described below.

B. Public finance

32. Tokelau's public revenue for the period under review consisted of New Zealand's budgetary support, supplemented by a special reconstruction grant from the administering Power following the damage caused by Cyclone Ofa, as well as other donations for reconstruction. Revenue was also raised from various charges, and from sales and fees. Direct New Zealand budgetary assistance amounted to $NZ 4.1 million, 8/ and the reconstruction grant following the cyclone was $NZ 1.2 million. Further assistance for reconstruction totalling $NZ 67,522 came from SPC, the Governments of Nauru, Australia and France, the Eastern Suburbs Lions Club, WHO, Auckland University, the Commonwealth Youth Programme, the Tokelauan community in New Zealand, the New Zealand Red Cross Society and the New Zealand Leprosy Trust. Additional revenue of $NZ 882,343 was generated in Tokelau from shipping freight charges, sales of postage stamps, handicrafts and coins, customs duties and exclusive economic zone fees.

C. Development assistance

33. Tokelau's main source of development assistance continues to be the New Zealand bilateral aid programme, which totalled $NZ 5.76 million in 1989/90, including direct budgetary support, development project assistance and a grant for reconstruction and rehabilitation in the wake of Cyclone Ofa.

Budgetary support

34. According to the administering Power, direct budgetary assistance of $NZ 4.1 million represented 71 per cent of New Zealand's total official development assistance (ODA) to Tokelau in 1989/90. New Zealand provided this budgetary support in the form of quarterly cash grants, in recognition of its constitutional obligations. These funds were destined to cover the portion of recurrent local costs which could not be met from locally generated revenue. Tokelau bore responsibility for the management and expenditure of the funds.

Cyclone Ofa rehabilitation

35. A rehabilitation and reconstruction grant of $NZ 1.2 million representing 21 per cent of New Zealand ODA to Tokelau was provided as an accountable cash

grant. In that connection, the New Zealand Defence Force carried out at the request of Tokelau a detailed reconnaissance operation to establish rehabilitation needs. On that basis, a rehabilitation programme which concentrated on the reconstruction of sea walls and public buildings was set up. ODA funds were used to provide technical assistance, emergency relief supplies, labour reconstruction materials, and other goods and services. NZDF helped to provide emergency relief and ongoing rehabilitation assistance.

Project assistance

36. The remaining 8 per cent of ODA ($NZ 459,000) was allocated for development assistance projects, such as reef channel clearance, technical assistance for the replacement of the Apia-Tokelau charter vessel, assistance with shipping charter fees, designing an appropriate inter-atoll vessel and a review of the Tokelau Public Service.

37. Tokelau's development strategy has two principal goals: to develop the transport-communications system, and to enhance and supplement the existing subsistence lifestyle. New Zealand's development assistance programme for Tokelau endeavours to address both areas of need. Unlike budgetary support, project assistance is intended to assist developmental activities rather than meet recurrent costs.

International assistance

38. Various international agencies also provide assistance to Tokelau. UNDP is the largest donor after New Zealand. Despite United Nations budgetary constraints, the sum available to Tokelau for the period from 1987 to 1991 remained at 80 per cent of the original indicative planning figure of $US 1.1 million.

39. The upgrading of Tokelau's telecommunications is the largest single United Nations project. The installation of equipment on the atolls has been completed; equipment on Fakaofo was destroyed, however, during the January 1987 cyclone. New equipment has been installed, but further work will need to be done in preparation for the relocation of the Tokelau Public Service. Expansion of the existing system is now being considered.

40. The execution of the integrated atoll development project which was sponsored by UNDP and administered by SPC was still under way on Fakaofo. The focus of the project has now changed to the strengthening of local institutions, with efforts commencing on Nukunonu. UNDP has continued to assist in the training of senior members of the public service and the upgrading of Tokelau's power and water supplies. Further UNDP assistance has been requested for shipping, livestock development and inter-atoll transportation.

41. UNDP has provided several volunteers to Tokelau, as has New Zealand through its VSA. Other international or multilateral donors include the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the

World Meteorological Organization (WMO), WHO, the International Telecommunication Union, SPC and the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). The Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation has been an important source of assistance in the education sector.

D. Agriculture, livestock and fisheries

42. Practically all land is held by customary title in accordance with the customs and usages of the inhabitants. The Tokelau Amendment Act 1967 provides that the people of Tokelau may dispose of their land among themselves according to their customs, but they may not alienate land by sale or gift to non-indigenous inhabitants. Land holdings pass from generation to generation within families, and are the privilege of the head of the family group. Some land is held in common.

43. A successful vegetable experiment, initiated with financial assistance from UNDP and technical advice from SPC, has been extended to Nukunonu and Atafu. A project aimed at developing root crops will also be extended to these two atolls. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided financial assistance to purchase a good stock of vegetable seeds for the three atolls.

44. In order to protect the crops, programmes for the control of rats and rhinoceros beetles continue to be carried out. Although it is well under control in Tokelau, the rhinoceros beetle has proliferated in some countries of the region.

45. Tokelau's livestock now comprises pigs, fowls and ducks. Attempts to improve the local swine breed have achieved some positive results. Exotic breeds have successfully been interbred with local species of pigs, producing new bloodlines.

46. A study which records traditional information regarding tuna fishing has been completed and published. In addition, a collection of 1,000 slides on traditional fishing techniques was issued during the period under review, and is being used by the Office for Tokelau Affairs. Further studies in this area are continuing with financial assistance from the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme.

47. Trochus stocks on Fakaofo were replenished with 500 specimens from Aitutaki in the Cook Islands. The project was also extended to cover Nukunonu and Atafu. A joint UNDP/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) aquaculture programme agreed to make a financial contribution towards the transplant of black pearl oysters from Manihiki in the Cook Islands to Tokelau.

48. Following the completion of a survey of clam and pearl oyster stocks, proposals were made for a reseeding and restocking programme for both species.

49. According to information provided by the administering Power, discussion was initiated with the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and SPC on the establishment of a fish-processing plant on Atafu, to be funded by project assistance in accordance with an FFA-United States Tuna Treaty. The facility would process fresh tuna into marinated, sun-dried tuna flakes.

E. Transport and communications

50. Tokelau continues to rely on shipping links for all cargo and passenger transport. The MV Wairua, owned by a Fiji-based shipping company, continued to be used extensively. The Western Samoa Shipping Company barge, MV Fotu, undertook additional charters to transport building materials and supplies. One charter was undertaken by the MV Nivaga II, a vessel owned by the Government of Tuvalu. A replacement vessel for the Apia-Tokelau shipping link is being sought by Tokelau and New Zealand. Planning is well advanced for the construction of an inter-atoll vessel.

51. In this connection, Ms. Fran Wilde, Associate Minister for Foreign Affairs of New Zealand, announced in August 1990 that New Zealand would proivde $NZ 1,332,000 for the construction of the inter-atoll vessel, which is scheduled for delivery in October 1991. Tokelau has no airstrip and relies on radio for its communications with the rest of the world. At present, a ship delivers supplies to Tokelau from Apia once a month.

F. Public works

52. During the period under review, a petrol storage shed was completed on Fakaofo to replace the one damaged by the cyclone in 1987. Maintenance work was carried out on most public facilities. In the wake of the cyclone, reconstruction and repair work were scheduled to be carried out by Tokelau and the New Zealand Defence Forces on 100 metres of sea wall, the radio shed, the hospital, the bulk store and jetties.

53. On Nukunonu, a Public Works Department Workshop was planned and designed. The construction of a replacement bridge continued, and maintenance work on public buildings was done. Reconstruction and repair work was planned on 110 metres of sea wall, the preschool building, the hospital and the guesthouse, which were damaged by the cyclone.

54. On Atafu, the construction of the industrial art centre is continuing and will be completed in the latter half of the next financial year. Maintenance work continued on public facilities. Reconstruction work was planned for 110 metres of sea wall, the bulk store, the hospital, the fuel store and the doctor's house, all damaged by the cyclone. The cyclone affected the atoll's work programme. Public servants were pooled together with the village workforce to do repair work on private houses and general reconstruction work for the village.

G. Energy

55. All three atolls are equipped with UNDP-funded 36 kVA diesel generators in an effort to improve their electricity power supplies. New cables were laid to replace old wires and new pillar boxes were connected. Household metres are installed in each home. The Fenuafala (Fakaofo) power reticulation programme was begun and is scheduled to be completed towards the end of 1991.

H. Trade

56. The Tokelau Public Service Administration works closely with the Store Committee on each atoll to improve the management of the cooperative stores and to rdeuce the cost of goods coming into Tokelau. An increasing percentage of the goods now sold into Tokelau is imported directly from manufacturers in New Zealand, Australia and Fiji, rather than purchased through wholesale outlets at Apia.

I. Banking and credit

57. New Zealand currency and the Tokelau souvenir coin are legal tender in Tokelau.

IV. SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

A. Health and social services

58. Health services in Tokelau are based on the concept of primary health care. Secondary and tertiary patient care is provided in conjunction with the referral service to Western Samoa and, for a selected number of cases, to New Zealand. The doctor-population ratio is approximately 1:500.

59. A medical officer from New Zealand was scheduled to join Nukunonu Hospital in 1990. One important task for the medical officer is to improve the management and supervisory skills of the staff in order to maintain the efficiency of health services. According to the administering Power, the decision to assign a medical officer to Nukunonu is part of the effort by the Department of Health to improve services, as recommended by the SPC Review of the Tokelau Health Service, completed in 1990.

60. Infectious skin diseases which were common in the past constituted a lesser problem during the period under review, owing to the increasing availability of water brought about by the water-supply programme. Infectious diseases, such as dengue fever and influenza are the causes of a high morbidity rate. The incidence of these diseases normally coincides with the arrival of the regular monthly ship at Tokelau. Other viral infections, such as hepatitis A, are endemic. Childhood diseases such as pertussis, diphtheria, tetanus, poliomyelitis and measles are kept well under control by

the immunization programme. Communicable diseases therefore continue to be the main causes of morbidity but are not the significant causes of death.

61. As the pattern of life in Tokelau is changing, non-communicable diseases are also becoming important causes of morbidity. A lack of understanding of the factors causing health risks as a result of the new lifestyle is a cause for concern. The proposed health education programme expects to address the problem and inform the community of health risks that should be avoided.

62. Under the sponsorship of the SPC intercountry study tour programme, three vector control officers visited the Western Samoa Public Health Division to study the handling, storage and use of insecticides approved by WHO, and to acquire a basic understanding of their possible effect on the local ecological environment.

63. Dental caries is prevalent in the population mainly because of a change in dietary habits, as people consume more processed foods from the stores and fewer traditional foods. The dental health programme for school children involves issuing toothbrushes and toothpaste to students, with the objective of teaching them preventive dental health care.

64. The water-supply programme has increased the availability of rain water to over 100 litres per person per day, provided there is regular monthly rainfall. The water supply is now sufficient to accommodate the sanitation programme, which allows for new homes under the housing scheme to be provided with water-scaled facilities and septic tanks.

65. SPC has now issued its report on the review of Tokelau's health services. The main recommendations of the report will be used as guidelines for improving health services in the Territory's communities.

B. Educational conditions

66. Each of the three atolls has modern and well-equipped primary and secondary schools catering for children between the ages of 5 and 18. In 1987, a national form V class was introduced at Matiti School on Nukunonu. Education is free and school attendance is close to 100 per cent. There are also pre-school classes in each village. Each school has a library which is also used by the local community.

67. Tokelau's teaching establishment comprises 43 qualified teachers and 8 teachers' aides. Each atoll has a Parent-Teacher Association that helps to organize school activities.

68. In the past years, students have sat examinations for scholarship selection at the form II level. Under the new policy, however, in 1990 examinations were given at the form V level. It is believed that under the earlier system, students were being sent overseas at too young an age. Also, with the improvements to the school system in Tokelau, children will be better equipped for further studies overseas.

69. Adult learning centres have been established on each of the atolls, with a view to developing youth programmes, assisting school leavers and promoting adult learning. The centres offer programmes aimed at developing traditional skills, such as carving and weaving. They also offer courses on specific trades, such as sewing, outboard motor maintenance and engineering. Each centre is run by a coordinator who helps local tutors to conduct their courses.

70. Teachers are being encouraged to upgrade their professional and academic skills through correspondence courses and more frequent in-service training. Two VSA volunteers from New Zealand are currently employed in Tokelau. One is assisting with the establishment of form V science programmes and is providing in-service training to Tokelauan teachers. The other is helping to develop the preschool curriculum.

71. Tokelaun students and trainees studying overseas under official sponsorship currently total 97.

C. Housing conditions

72. The people on Atafu atoll live in one village which is situated on part of a motu (reef-bound islet). At Nukunonu, the village occupies about half of one motu, which is connected by bridge to a neighbouring motu where some families have settled. The village on Fakaofo is on a small but comparatively high and well-shaded motu. It is overcrowded, although emigration to New Zealand has alleviated the problem. A second village has been established on a larger nearby motu, Fenuafala, where the school, the hospital and other facilities are located.

73. A government-subsidized housing programme continues to operate on all three atolls. This scheme is very popular, and the number of houses of traditional construction has decreased significantly.

D. Welfare and relief

74. Respect for the aged is an integral part of the social system of the islands, where the responsibility of the family to provide for the aged and needy is accepted. Village women's committees, consisting principally of married women, assist the medical officers and nursing staff with infant care and child welfare. A pension is paid to women over the age of 60 years and to men over the age of 65 years.

E. Labour and employment

75. Copra production and the manufacture of handicrafts are the only industries of significance in Tokelau. Most labour is devoted to procuring food from lagoons, the ocean or plantations; to village maintenance; and to the production of handicrafts. Various public works and agriculture

programmes and projects also provide employment, with all paid-worker positions rotated so as to distribute public service wages more widely throughout the community. Some work is now carried out under contract by the village labour forces.

F. Crime prevention

76. There are nine Tokelauan police officers, three each on Fakaofo, Atafu and Nukunonu. They are responsible to the village authorities for the enforcement of law and order, and to the Tokelau Public Service for their various civil duties.

77. There is little crime in Tokelau, and there are no prisons. Punishment generally takes the form of public rebukes, fines or labour.

G. Human rights

78. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by New Zealand in December 1978, apply in Tokelau.

Notes

1/ The information contained in the present paper has been largely derived from information transmitted to the Secretary- General by the Government of New Zealand under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations on 2 April 1991 for the year ended 30 June 1990.

2/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/31/23/Rev.1), vol. III, chap. XVII, annex, appendices I-IV.

3/ The Tokelau Amendment Bill, 1986, was enacted into law at the end of July 1986 (see A/AC.109/877/Add.1, annex V).

4/ United Nations press release, GA/COL/2728, 26 April 1990.

5/ Dominion Sunday Times (Wellington), 4 November 1990.

6/ Radio New Zealand, 8 November 1990.

7/ Pacific Daily News (Guam), 13 February 1990.

8/ The local currency is the New Zealand dollar. As at August 1990, $NZ 1.00 was equivalent to $US 0.61.